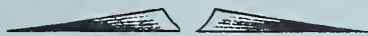


Urban District of Burnham-on-Sea



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1969

BURNHAM - ON - SEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

WORKS, HEALTH AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE, 1969

Chairman:

MR. H. F. CLAPP

Vice Chairman:

MRS. H. B. HUGHES

MRS. M. BREWER

MR. B. E. HOOPER

MRS. M. K. BUNCOMBE

MR. W. LIVERSIDGE
(Chairman of the Council)

MR. H. CAISLEY GROEN

MR. H. J. LUKE

MR. D. F. DAY

MRS. I. R. MISRA

MRS. M. E. FORSE

MR. E. C. SAICH
(Vice Chairman of the Council)

MRS. B. D. M. GRIFFIN

MRS. E. E. J. HERRING

MR. J. B. H. WATKINS

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1969

Medical Officer of Health:

R. H. WATSON, M.B. B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer (Somerset C.C.):

CHRISTINE M. ROOKE, M.B. B.S.

Public Health Inspector/Housing Officer:

H. F. ROBINSON, M.A.P.H.I.

Assistant Housing Officer:

C. A. BUNNETT



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1969

Tel: Bridgwater: 4147/8

Health Department,
22 King Square,
BRIDGWATER,

October, 1969

To: The Chairman and Members of the
Burnham-On-Sea Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the Urban District and the work of the Public Health Department during the year 1969. The report is drawn up in accordance with Department of Health instructions and is set out in the manner of previous years, so that comparison with former reports can easily be made.

The health of the Urban District during the year under review has been good and there was no undue incidence of infectious diseases. The vital statistics compare favourably with those of the country as a whole.

Dr. C. M. Rooke retired at the end of the year and we were sorry indeed to lose the services of a doctor who had endeared herself to so many parents during the many years she worked in the area as Health Department Medical Officer.

Once again I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my grateful appreciation to the Members of the Council for the help and consideration which I have received and for the friendly co-operation extended to me by my fellow Officers.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

R. H. WATSON

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

General Statistics

Area (including foreshore)	2,246 acres
Population (census 1961)	10,020
Population (Registrar General's estimate) 1969	11,530
No. of inhabited houses on 31st December, 1969	4,106
Rateable value on 31st December, 1969	£449,735
Sum represented by 1d. rate on 31st December, 1969	£1,825

Extracts from VITAL STATISTICS for the year 1969

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	62	73	135
Illegitimate	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>9</u>
	68	76	144
	<u>=</u>	<u>=</u>	<u>=</u>
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population			12.49
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			6.25
Still births			4
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births			27.03
Total live and still births			148
Infant Deaths (deaths of infants under one year of age)			2
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - total			13.89
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - legitimate			14.81
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - illegitimate			Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)			6.94
Early Neo-natal Mortality (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)			6.94
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)			33.78
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)			Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births			Nil
<u>Deaths</u>			
Total number of deaths			210
Death rate per 1,000 population			18.21

Births

After allowing for inward and outward transfers the Registrar General's figures show that there were 144 births (68 boys and 76 girls) in the Urban District during 1969, being 8 less births than in 1968. Of these births 9 were illegitimate. This is 6.25% of the total live births, as compared with 5.26% in 1968.

The birth rate of any area is dependent upon the composition of the population in that area. Obviously a population with a high proportion of persons of child bearing age will have more births per 1,000 of the population than an area with an unduly large number of people in the older age groups. To enable the birth rates of different areas to be compared, the Registrar General provides a "Comparability Factor" for each Local Authority area, which renders the birth rate for each area comparable with that of a district the population of which is of standard age and sex distribution. The birth rate for the Urban District adjusted in this manner is increased from 12.49 to 15.86 per 1,000 of the population.

The birth rate for England and Wales was 16.30

Birth rate for the Urban District and for England and Wales for the past five years were as follows:-

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Crude Birth Rate	14.00	15.84	11.98	13.32	12.49
Standardised Birth Rate	16.80	19.00	15.21	16.92	15.86
England and Wales	18.0	17.7	17.2	16.90	16.30

Deaths

The number of deaths registered in the Urban District during 1969 was 198. Of these 45 were deaths of non-residents and were transferred to the district in which the persons ordinarily resided. There were, on the other hand, 57 deaths of Urban District residents registered outside the District. The total corrected number of deaths assigned to the District was 210 (93 males and 117 females). This was 2 more than in the previous year, and gave a crude death rate of 18.21.

This crude death rate cannot be used to compare the mortality with that of other districts, as the populations of all areas are not similarly constituted as regards age and sex distribution. The Registrar General supplies an "Area Comparability Factor" and the crude death rate multiplied by this figure can then be compared with the death rate of the country as a whole, or with the mortality of any other local area. The corrected death rate so obtained was 11.84 per 1,000 of the population and this was compared with 11.90 for England and Wales.

Death rates for the Urban District and for England and Wales for the past five years were as follows:-

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Crude Death Rate	15.49	17.48	18.87	18.23	18.22
Standardised Death Rate	11.15	11.88	11.51	11.85	11.84
England and Wales	11.5	11.7	11.2	11.90	11.90

Of the 210 deaths, 172 occurred in people over the age of 65 years. 36 occurred in people in the productive age groups 15 to 64. Details of the latter are given in the following table:-

	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Total
Malignant neoplasm, lung, Bronchus	-	-	-	-	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	-	-	-	1	2
Other malignant neoplasms	-	-	-	-	1	1
Meningitis	-	-	-	-	1	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	-	-	-	1	1	2
Ischaemic heart disease	-	-	1	5	7	13
Cerebrovascular disease	-	-	-	-	2	2
Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	-	1
Bronchitis and emphysema	-	-	-	1	1	2
Cirrhosis of liver	-	-	-	-	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	1	-	-	1
Congenital anomalies	-	1	-	-	-	1
Other diseases of circulatory system	-	-	-	-	1	1
Other diseases of digestive system	-	-	1	-	-	1
Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	-	1	-	3
All other external causes	-	-	-	-	1	1
	2	1	3	10	20	36

The following table shows the causes of all deaths and sex distribution:-

Cause of Death	M	F	Total
All Causes	93	117	210
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	2	4
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	1	5	6
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	1	7
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	5	5
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	2	-	2
Leukaemia	1	-	1
Other malignant neoplasms	5	2	7
Meningitis	-	1	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	-	4	4
Hypertensive disease	4	4	8
Ischaemic heart disease	28	23	51
Other forms of heart disease	-	3	3
Cerebrovascular disease	12	29	41
Influenza	2	-	2
Pneumonia	4	7	11
Bronchitis and emphysema	7	3	10
Peptic ulcer	2	-	2
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	-	1	1
Cirrhosis of liver	-	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Other endocrine etc., disease	-	1	1
Other diseases of circulatory system	8	17	25
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	3	3
Other diseases of digestive system	-	1	1
Diseases of skin, subcutaneous tissue	1	-	1
Congenital anomalies	2	-	2
Other causes of perinatal mortality	-	1	1
Motor vehicle accidents	2	2	4
All other accidents	1	-	1
All other external causes	1	-	1

Cancer Mortality

The number of deaths of Urban District residents from cancer was 33 (males 17 and females 16). This was 3 less than the previous year. Cancer deaths constituted 15.71% of the total deaths during the year.

The following table shows the localisation of the disease in the 33 cases:-

Localisation	Number of Deaths			
	Male	Female	Total	1968
Stomach	2	2	4	8
Intestine	1	5	6	-
Lung, Bronchus	6	1	7	7
Breast	-	5	5	5
Uterus	-	1	1	2
Prostate	2	-	2	-
Leukaemia	1	-	1	1
Other malignant neoplasms	5	2	7	13
Total	17	16	33	36

Cancer of the Uterus

The County Council have now started a scheme whereby cervical smears can be taken with a view to preventing cancer of the womb. The tests are taken by family doctors and are examined at Musgrove Park Hospital.

Cancer of the Lung

The ages at which deaths from lung cancer occurred during the last five years is detailed in the following table:-

Year	Under 15	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Over 65	Total
1965	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	8
1966	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	7
1967	-	-	-	1	1	2	6	10
1968	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	7
1969	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	7

Deaths from Heart Disease

Of 210 deaths heart disease caused 66 (males 32, females 34). It represented 31.43% of the total deaths from all causes and was equivalent to a death rate of 5.72 per 1,000 of the population.

Infantile Mortality

2 infants under one year of age died during the year. This gives an infantile mortality rate of 13.89 per 1,000 of all live births, while the corresponding rate for England and Wales was 18.0.

Population

The estimated population of the Urban District as at June, 1969, was 11,530 which shows an increase of 120 on the previous year. It is interesting to note the estimated population changes and the following table illustrates the trend since 1959:-

Year	Population	Estimated Increase	Natural Increase (Births related to deaths)
1959	9,790	80	16
1960	10,020	230	-18
1961	9,890	-130	-5
1962	10,240	350	22
1963	10,400	160	-17
1964	10,480	80	5
1965	10,780	300	-16
1966	10,980	200	-18
1967	11,180	200	-77
1968	11,410	230	-56
1969	11,530	120	-66

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS
AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

The following table sets out the cases of notifiable diseases that occurred in the Urban District during 1969. The table is drawn up after making the necessary corrections in diagnosis by either the practitioners or the Medical Officers at the Isolation Hospital:-

Disease	Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-64	65 and over	Age Unknown	Total
Measles	-	1	2	1	1	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	3	5
Total	-	1	3	2	1	7	1	-	1	-	-	2	-	3	21

During the previous year 152 cases of notifiable diseases were notified.

Diphtheria

No cases of diphtheria were notified.

Acute Poliomyelitis

No cases were notified.

Measles

13 cases were notified and it is very probable that the true incidence of the disease was significantly higher than this. It is therefore satisfactory to note that a reliable vaccine against the disease has been produced and immunisation of children is now possible.

Tuberculosis

1 case of respiratory tuberculosis was notified during the year.

B.C.G. Vaccination

In order to raise the immunity of school leavers to tuberculosis, vaccination with B.C.G. vaccine was offered to all children between the ages of 13 and 14 years attending schools in the Mid-Somerset Divisional Area. 721 accepted the offer and received a preliminary skin test, the 'Heaf Test', to determine whether they had in fact already experienced some infection with tuberculosis. 575 of these gave negative results and were vaccinated with the B.C.G. vaccine.

Suspected Food Poisoning

One outbreak of food poisoning occurred. It involved five residents of the Urban District and other persons who attended a reception held locally. It was considered that the source of infection was a ham which had been infected by a carrier of the causative organism after the ham had been cooked. Routine preventive measures were taken and no secondary cases arose.

Immunisation and Vaccination

Immunisation and vaccination against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis, smallpox and measles, are now entirely carried out by general practitioners under the County Council scheme utilising a computer to deal with the administrative aspects. This scheme is working satisfactorily and it will certainly result in raising still further the general level of immunisation of the community.

Nurses and General Practice

The new arrangement introduced last year whereby Health Visitors, District Nurses and Midwives are attached to family doctor practices has continued to work satisfactorily. Although it has inevitably involved nurses in greatly increased travel, there is no doubt that the advantages of the new arrangements far outweigh any disadvantages.

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES

Laboratory Facilities

Pathological specimens are sent to the laboratory at Musgrove Park Hospital, which forms part of the Public Health Service. Results of investigations are available with the minimum of delay and there is good liaison between the laboratory personnel and the field workers in the Public Health Department.

Examinations carried out during the year included 11 water samples, 38 ice cream samples, and 3 samples of prepared foods.

Home Help Service

This service is provided by the County Council, with local administration by the Home Help Organiser, with an office at the Health Centre, Mount Street, Bridgwater.

The Home Helps have proved of very considerable value and much assistance was given to needy cases. During the year 181 cases received assistance.

These included the following types of cases:-

Post and Pre-Natal	2
Maternity	2
Old age and infirmity	152
Chronic Sick	16
Post Operation	2
Emergency illness	1
Other cases	6

In many cases assisted, the patient, or other members of the family would have been unable to remain at home, were it not for the Home Help Service.

In addition to the normal service, arrangements have been made for women to sit up with seriously ill cases where alternative arrangements cannot be made.

The number of Home Helps at 31.12.69 were as follows:-

Full time	4
Part time	31

Welfare of Old People

The Council are now assisting the W.V.S. to provide meals on wheels for old people, and this worthwhile service is much appreciated by the recipients. An average of 88 meals per week are distributed.

National Assistance Act, 1947 - Section 47

A number of cases were assisted through informal action, and in no case was it necessary for the Council to take statutory action to secure the admission of an old person to suitable accommodation.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Housing

The number of permanent dwellings in the Urban District	4,382
The number of permanent dwellings owned by the Local Authority	694
Number of houses declared unfit under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957	-
Number of houses closed as a result of an undertaking given by the owner or following the issue of Closing Orders	2
Number of houses made fit during the year	21

	Houses/flats erected during the year		Houses in course of erection	
	For slum clearance	For other purposes	For slum clearance	For other purposes
Local Authority	-	-	-	24
Private Enterprise	-	107	-	133
Total	-	107	-	157

In the period from 1st April, 1945 to 31st December, 1969, a total of 1,887 houses have been built. These were made up of 584 by the Local Authority and 1,303 by Private Enterprise.

At the end of the year there were 304 applicants for Council houses.

Water Supplies

The mains water supply was satisfactory both as to quality and quantity. The water is treated by chlorination and bacteriological tests were carried out on the treated water on 11 occasions, all of which gave excellent results.

Routine chemical analysis of water supply showed the following result.

Physical Characters

Clear and bright
Hazen Units less than 5

Sediment

Nil

Reaction

Very Slightly Alkaline

pH

7.1

Parts per million

Total Solids	405.0
Total Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	250.0
Carbonate Hardness " "	250.0
Non-carbonate " "	60.0
Total Hardness " "	310.0
Chloride (as Cl)	20.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (as N)	0.002
Albuminoid " "	0.036
Nitrate " "	6.7
Nitrite " "	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 27°C	0.15
Free Carbon Dioxide	6.0
Iron, and Lead	Nil
Copper	0.1
Zinc	Less than 5

This is a hard water, of satisfactory chemical purity.

Sewage Disposal

The Council's proposals for a main drainage scheme involving comprehensive re sewerage of the District and for the concentration of all sewage prior to treatment and discharge to the river have been approved in principle by the Department. However consent to proceed with the scheme is held up pending consultation with neighbouring authorities concerning the feasibility of having one large sewage treatment works to cover a wider area involving the northern part of Bridgwater Rural District and possibly also Bridgwater Borough. While there may be much to commend the principle of regional sewage treatment schemes it is disappointing that at least the Council's plans for comprehensive re sewerage the District cannot proceed. Nevertheless approval has been given to measures designed to reduce the amount of surface water entering the existing sewers and thus to reduce the risk of surcharge of sewers.

Refuse Disposal

Domestic refuse is removed by the Council on a weekly collection. The Council have agreed with Bridgwater Rural District Council for the joint use of the latter Council's tip at Puriton. Here refuse is tipped into a large claypit and is covered as much as possible. The Tip is situated well out into the country and generally little or no nuisance arises. The construction of the M.5 Motorway will interfere with this tip, and alternative arrangements for refuse disposal are being discussed with Bridgwater Rural District Council. It is probable that a site at Gossington will be approved, but this will involve disposal of refuse by controlled tipping and will very probably result in an increase in the cost of refuse disposal.

Camping Sites

Five sites are licensed. All have been inspected during the season and generally speaking sanitary conditions remain satisfactory. Improvements have been carried out to cater more adequately for the needs of increasing numbers of caravaners.

Ice Cream

The number of premises registered for manufacture and sale 1

For retail only 62

38 samples were taken during the year, the results being as follows:-

17	samples	were	placed	in	Provisional	Grade	1
8	"	"	"	"	"	"	2
4	"	"	"	"	"	"	3
9	"	"	"	"	"	"	4

Samples which fall into grades 1 and 2 are considered to be satisfactory. Samples reported in grades 3 and 4 are followed by inspection, and where indicated advice is given on measures necessary to improve the quality of the product.

Slaughterhouses

Ample facilities for slaughtering are available at the abattoir at Weston-Super-Mare, and consequently there are no licensed slaughterhouses in the Urban District.

Premises where Food is prepared

No statutory action was taken regarding enforcement of the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, and co-operation from food traders has continued to be good and improvements have been made to premises and equipment.

Knackers Yard

The one knacker's yard in the Urban District is regularly inspected and a satisfactory standard is maintained. The Meat (Sterilization) Regulations 1969 require all knacker meat (other than the meat of a hare or rabbit) to be sterilised before entering the chain of distribution. Sterilisation plant to meet the requirements of the regulation has been installed at the local yard. The operation of the Regulations is also checked by routine visits to pet food shops.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963

This act was introduced to secure satisfactory working conditions and the provision of adequate facilities for employees. Altogether 169 premises are registered and numerous visits have been made to secure compliance with the requirements of the Act. Mr. H. F. Robinson, Public Health Inspector, reports as follows:-

"It is quite evident that a good deal of ignorance of their obligations under the Act still exists amongst employers, particularly regarding the obligation of a new occupier of premises to register despite the fact that the previous occupier had registered.

Similarly, many shopkeepers in family operated businesses do not apparently realise that the engagement of full time labour for only a few weeks during the summer season brings their premises within the scope of the Act during that period and registration is therefore necessary.

Such cases have necessitated special visits, during which the requirements of the Act were fully discussed with the employers concerned. Inspection, or in some cases re-inspection, of the premises, subsequent to receipt of the completed form OSR.1. was followed in all cases of contravention with a written informal notice.

Only in a very few instances was it necessary to make more than one follow up visit in order to ensure compliance with the Act, and full co-operation was invariably given by the employers concerned.

Although no serious accident occurred during the year, delay in the submission of form OSR.2. in the case of minor accidents gave rise to some concern. This applied in respect of multiple firms when the form was eventually supplied from the Head Office some weeks after the accident. Although the somewhat belated investigations did not disclose any negligence on the part of the employer, the local Manager was advised to obtain a supply of forms OSR.2. in order that he himself could submit details more promptly. The Head Office was also warned of the need to submit form OSR.2. without any delay.

Contraventions of the Act observed during the year were, without exception, all of a minor nature such as the non-submission of forms OSR.1. and OSR.2, non-display of Abstracts and deficiencies in first aid kits, and no statutory proceedings were found to be necessary."

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Routine inspections of premises under the above named Regulations have continued. Shopkeepers have been interested in the production and sale of food under hygienic conditions and improvements have been achieved by direct discussion rather than by statutory action such as the service of notices under the Regulations.

The number of food premises in the Urban District which are subject to these Regulations is 113 and these have been classified in the following categories, each business being classified by its main trade.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Schedule of Premises

Trade Category	Total	Number fitted to comply with Reg. 16. (Provision of Wash Basins)	Number to which Reg. 19 applies. (Provision of Sinks)	Number fitted to comply with Reg. 19.
Butchers' and fresh meat shops	13	13	13	13
Bakers and Confectioners	9	9	6	6
Fried Fish Shops	5	5	5	5
Groceries and Provisions	44	44	3	3
Cafes, Restaurants, Canteens & Beach Stalls	24	24	22	22
Hotels and Public Houses	18	18	9	9
Totals	113	113	58	58

FACTORIES ACT 1961

The following particulars indicate the action taken under Part 1 of the Factories Act, 1961:-

	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	12	4	-	-
(11) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	48	10	-	-
(111) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	8	12	-	-
Total	68	26	-	-

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness	4	4	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (including offences relating to Outwork).	-	-	-	-	-
Total	5	5	-	1	-

PART VIII

(Sections 133 and 134)

	Section 133			Section 134		
Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August. List required by Section 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions.
Stuffed toys	2	-	-	-	-	-

